GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4268
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Recognition to Geo Park
Raju Shri Gokaraju Ganga

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, the Government has declared and recognised the Red Soil Hills located in Visakhapatnam as a Central Geographical Heritage Site and now is planning to make it as the first Geo Park in India;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government proposes to recommend the Geo Park to UNESCO for its recognition as UNESCO's Heritage site so as to attract international tourists;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the steps taken to protect the site from encroachments, if any?

Answer

(a) & (b) : Director General, Geological Survey of India (GSI), vide resolution dated 19th July 2014, has declared the Red Soil Hills - Erra Matti Dibbalu, Visakhapatnam as a Geoheritage Site. Subsequently, the Government of Andhra Pradesh passed an order (G.O.Ms. No.99 dated 12th July 2016) for notification in the Extra-Ordinary issue of Andhra Pradesh Gazette, declaring the site as Geological Heritage Site for conservation, protection and maintenance.

There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Mines to make the Red Soil Hills the first 'Geo Park' in India.

(c) & (d): There is no such proposal being considered in the Ministry of Mines.

(e): As given under (a) above.